

COUNCIL COMING ATTRACTIONS



Week of May 8, 2017

Montgomery College, Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission, Health and Human Services, Transportation, and Bus Rapid Transit



Council Coming Attractions is a summary of some of the issues before the Council. All Council staff reports and additional information on each item scheduled for Council or Committee review can be viewed at: <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/COUNCIL/ondemand/index.html>.

Also the Council meeting schedule may change from time to time. The current Council and Committee agendas can also be viewed at: <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/COUNCIL/ondemand/index.html>.

- On May 9 the Council session will begin at 9:30 a.m. Two proclamation presentations are scheduled:
 - Councilmember Floreen will recognize the Regeneron Science Talent Search Finalists.
 - Council President Berliner will recognize the 30th anniversary of JCA Heyman Interages Center.

COUNCIL

Also on May 9 the Council is scheduled to review and take preliminary action on numerous budget items. Below are the items currently scheduled for discussion.

- Status Report – Overview of Revenues and Expenditures
As the Council's worksessions on the FY18 operating budget begin, Council staff has prepared a status report that reflects the work of the Council's six Committees since the public hearings on April 4-6. The staff report can be viewed at:
http://montgomerycountymd.granicus.com/MetaViewer.php?view_id=169&event_id=5023&meta_id=137977.

The report shows that Committees to date have recommended reductions of \$1.7 million, identified additional resources of \$6.3 million, and placed potential expenditures of \$27.2 million on the reconciliation list. The net reconciliation list is therefore \$19.2 million. The next status report on May 17 will reflect the Council's upcoming decisions on a wide range of issues, including the May 9 budget consent calendar and the multiple individual budgets scheduled for review on May 9, 15, and 16. The May 17 report will also reflect decisions made at the May 11 bi-county meeting with the Prince George's County Council on the WSSC capital and operating budgets and the bi-county elements of the M-NCPPC budget.



Montgomery College

The Board of Trustees adopted the proposed FY18 operating budget for Montgomery College on January 23. The College's total request is \$313.7 million for all funds, which is an increase of \$1.2 million or 0.4 percent over the FY17 approved level of \$312.5 million. The College's tax-supported request totals \$265.0 million, \$3.4 million or 1.3 percent over the FY17 tax-supported level of \$261.6 million. The College's County funding request is an increase of \$7.4 million over FY17. The staff report can be viewed at:

http://montgomerycountymd.granicus.com/MetaViewer.php?view_id=169&event_id=5023&meta_id=138019 .



Education Committee Operating Budget Recommendations (All are unanimous unless otherwise noted).

- Place \$4.8 million on the Reconciliation List to support the College's requested County FY18 contribution in three increments of \$1.6 million (\$4.8 million represents the gap between the College's request and the Executive's recommendation after Committee adjustments).
- Support the budgets requested by the College and recommended by the Executive for the non-tax supported funds, with a revision requested by the College to increase the Grants Fund by \$3.2 million to reflect additional Federal grants.
- Support a technical adjustment in FY18 State Aid based on updated totals. This will result in a \$27,974 decrease from the Executive's recommendation for State Aid revenue.
- Support the Executive's recommendation to lower the College's reserve by \$309,470. This action is consistent with the Council's policy on the College's fund balance and budgeted reserve, leaving the College with a projected reserve of 3%. (3-0)
- Reject (2-1) the Executive's recommendation to use an additional \$400,000 in fund balance related to the potential sale of the former Takoma Park/Silver Spring early learning center property due to uncertainty over whether those funds will be realized.



Education Committee Capital Budget Recommendations

On March 28, the Council provided preliminary approval to the Education Committee's amended recommendation to support the funding sources in Montgomery College's capital budget request for the Takoma Park/Silver Spring Math and Science Center project as opposed to the Executive's recommendation (adding \$3 million in GO Bond funding to the CIP). Consistent with Council practice and upon request of the Chair, the College provided the Committee with a list of potential non-recommended changes within its CIP to address this funding gap if needed during reconciliation. The Committee recommends:

- For the \$3 million in GO Bonds related to the Takoma Park/Silver Spring Math and Science Center project, forward the Rockville Science East Building Renovation, Capital Renewal, and Planned Lifecycle Asset Replacement project amendments to the full Council for consideration during CIP reconciliation if needed due to affordability considerations as a replacement for the Executive's funding recommendation. The Committee's preference is funding the project as requested by the College. If needed, the Committee suggests taking the reduction from the Rockville Science East Building Renovation project prior to considering the reductions from the Capital Renewal or Planned Lifecycle Asset Replacement projects.

- Restore the \$1 million in CIP current revenue reductions recommended by the County Executive in the College Affordability Reconciliation project, pending final CIP affordability considerations.
- The Committee also discussed the PDF language for the Takoma Park/Silver Spring Math and Science Center project. The PDF reflects the College's approved Facilities Master Plan, which states that the new building will replace the Science South and Falcon Hall buildings. The total costs associated with the project in the PDF are also based on the current plan. The PDF does not preclude the College and stakeholders, including the Takoma Park and Silver Spring communities, from continuing to discuss the future of the Campus. In addition the Council's budget process provides opportunities to update or amend the PDF. As a result, the College may revise (and submit for Council approval) the PDF for this project as appropriate to reflect outcomes from the ongoing Community Conversations and/or the upcoming building design charrette process once the design funding is approved for the project in FY18. Last year, the Council directed the College to utilize the charrette process during the design phase of this project.



Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission

The combined total of the capital and operating budget for the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC) is \$1.44 billion, an increase of \$10.8 million (or 0.8 percent) from the approved FY17 amount of \$1.43 billion. The total proposed FY18 operating budget is \$740.8 million, an increase of \$4.4 million (or 0.6 percent) from the approved FY17 operating budget of \$736.4 million. The staff report can be viewed at:

http://montgomerycountymd.granicus.com/MetaViewer.php?view_id=169&event_id=5023&meta_id=138021.

➤ Transportation, Infrastructure, Energy & Environment (T&E) Committee Recommendations

- System Development Charge
 - ✓ Concur with WSSC to maintain System Development Charge (SDC) rates for FY18 at current approved levels, but increase the maximum chargeable rate (the rate the charge could be increased in the future) by a CPI adjustment as allowed by State law. *NOTE: Final action on the charge will occur via action on a resolution in mid-May.*
 - ✓ Revise the definition of "revitalization" in Schedule B of the Council's SDC resolution to allow exemptions for distilleries, breweries, and wineries in Montgomery County. *NOTE: See page 8 for discussion of this change originally proposed by Councilmember Riemer.*
- WSSC's FY18 Operating Budget
 - ✓ Revise FY18 debt service downward (-\$385,600 estimate) based on the latest bond-funded costs assumed for the Blue Plains Wastewater Treatment Plant projects in FY18 (savings to revert to fund balance).

Other highlights of the WSSC budget include:

- Continued implementation of a customer assistance program (reducing FY18 revenue by \$1.34 million) waiving the account maintenance fee and infrastructure investment fee for an estimated 12,000 eligible customers.
- A 3.5 percent average rate increase, which is the rate ceiling agreed upon by both Councils during the spending control limits process last fall. No changes in the account maintenance fee or infrastructure investment fee are proposed for FY18.
- A pool of \$5.3 million for salary enhancements is included in the proposed budget, with the final amount and allocation of these dollars to be considered in the context of both Councils' actions regarding their employee union bargaining agreements. The \$5.3 million is equivalent to a 1.5 percent COLA and merit increases of up to 4 percent for eligible employees; subject to ratification by WSSC's employee union. (with \$136,185 reserved for IT bonuses).

- Water production is projected at 164 million gallons per day, which is the same amount assumed in FY17 and the same as assumed for FY18 during the spending control limits process last fall.
- The proposed budget includes \$53.6 million (a decrease of \$884,000, or -1.6 percent, from FY17) for regional sewage disposal costs for WSSC sewage treated at the Blue Plains Wastewater Treatment Facility.
- The proposed budget includes \$28.4 million for large diameter pre-cast concrete cylinder pipe (PCCP) water main inspection, repairs, and acoustic fiber optic (AFO) installation, as well as acoustic fiber optic monitoring of all previously installed AFO. Also included is \$16.3 million for large diameter repairs and cathodic protection and \$2.8 million for large valve inspections, replacement, and repairs. These expenditures represent a similar level of effort to FY17.
- The proposed budget includes funding for 55 miles of water main reconstruction and associated house connection renewals (consistent with the Proposed FY18-23 CIP and similar in scope to the current budget). The FY18 request is consistent with WSSC's goal of a steady state of approximately 55 miles of replacement per year (or about a 10-year replacement cycle).



Health and Human Services

The Council staff report for this item will be available on Monday, May 8 at:

<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/COUNCIL/ondemand/index.html>.



Supplemental appropriation to the County Government's FY17 Operating Budget, Department of Housing and Community Affairs: \$1,600,000 for HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) Program

The Council is scheduled to hold a public hearing and vote on a supplemental appropriation of \$1.6 million for the HOME Program. This appropriation would fund construction of the Mt. Jezree1 Senior housing project. This increase is needed because the amount of the HOME Program loan repayments is higher than expected. The HOME Program is a federal grant that includes two parts, an entitlement grant amount and an estimate for program income, which is generated through loan repayments. This appropriation does not impact County General Government Reserves. The source of funds is a Federal Grant. The staff report can be viewed at:

http://montgomerycountymd.granicus.com/MetaViewer.php?view_id=169&event_id=5023&meta_id=138025.



Supplemental appropriation to the County Government's FY17 Operating Budget, Department of Health and Human Services: \$1,981,923 for Ryan White B – Health Support Services Grant

The Council is scheduled to vote on a supplemental appropriation of \$1,981,923 for the Ryan White B – Health Support Services Grant. The Health and Human Services (HHS) Committee recommends approval. This increase is needed to fund the Ryan White B - Health Support Services for the provision of clinical and client centered services to Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) to reduce the incidence of HIV in the community. The source of funds is a State Grant. The staff report can be viewed at:

http://montgomerycountymd.granicus.com/MetaViewer.php?view_id=169&event_id=5023&meta_id=138028.



Transportation and related NDAs

The Department of Transportation's FY18 recommended operating budget is \$220,547,869, a 5% increase over FY17. The final expenditures in both FY17 and FY18 will be higher, however, because the General Fund budgets in those years do not yet include funds from the snow removal and storm clearance supplemental appropriations.



➤ The Transportation, Infrastructure, Energy and Environment (T&E) Committee Recommends placing \$1,485,337 on the Reconciliation List for the following:

- The net cost to start 7 bikeshare stations in April: \$21,488.

- Restore the tree planting budget to FY17 level: \$496,889.
- Rustic roads street name signs: \$25,000.
- Complete streets guidelines: \$264,000.
- Add 2 hours on Saturdays to Seniors Ride Free: \$33,000.
- US 29 MetroExtra (1st tranche: from Briggs Chaney P&R: \$425,000.
- US 29 MetroExtra (2nd tranche: from Burtonsville P&R: \$220,000.

The FY18 recommended operating budget, by fund, is shown on page 7 of the staff report, as well as the three-year trend of actual expenditures and budgets by fund. The full staff report can be viewed at:

http://montgomerycountymd.granicus.com/MetaViewer.php?view_id=169&event_id=5023&meta_id=138030.

For more information on specific projects, see that staff report which is organized into 11 topic areas as follows:

- ✓ FY17-22 CIP-selected amendments, some with supplemental appropriations (pages 1-5);
- ✓ Summary of Committee Recommendations for the Reconciliation List (page 6);
- ✓ Overview of DOT's FY18 Operating Budget (page 6);
- ✓ Vacuum Leaf Collection Fund and General Fund (page 7);
- ✓ Transportation Fees, Charges, and Fares (pages 9-11);
- ✓ Mass Transit Fund (pages 12-15);
- ✓ Parking Lot District (PLD) Funds (pages 15-19);
- ✓ Homeowners Association Road Maintenance Reimbursement NDA (pages 19-20);
- ✓ Rockville Parking District NDA (page 20);
- ✓ Snow Removal and Storm Cleanup NDA (page 20); and
- ✓ Vision Zero NDA (page 20).



Rapid Transit System project – US 29 BRT

The County Executive is proposing an FY18 appropriation of \$9.5 million and an amendment to the FY17-22 CIP to the Rapid Transit System project for \$31.5 million to fund the first stage of implementation of a 14-mile-long US 29 Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) line between Burtonsville and the Silver Spring Metro Station. The sources of funds are \$14 million from the Mass Transit Fund, \$7.5 million from General Obligation bonds, and \$10 million from a Federal Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant. The staff report can be viewed at:

http://montgomerycountymd.granicus.com/MetaViewer.php?view_id=169&event_id=5023&meta_id=138032.

➤ Transportation, Infrastructure, Energy and Environment (T&E) Committee Recommendations

- Defer \$2 million of spending from the Federal TIGER grant from FY18 to FY19, reduce the FY18 appropriation to \$7.5 million (without \$2 million for right-of-way acquisition), and spell out on the project description form the remaining items for which the remaining \$7.5 million is being appropriated (§61-62).
- Concur with Councilmember Riemer's proposal to have the Department of Transportation (DOT) prepare, after consultation with the State Highway Administration, a scope of work, cost estimate, and duration of a detailed study of the next Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project on US 29 that would evaluate, at the very least, creating a dedicated BRT lane from Industrial Parkway to the Silver Spring CBD. The Committee expects to introduce a supplemental appropriation for this study in September 2017.
- Place funds on the Reconciliation List for MetroExtra service on US 29. Information on this item is included in the Council staff report on Transportation (Agenda Item #79).

➤ Project Details

The Executive proposes to run BRT vehicles on the outside shoulders of US 29 between Burtonsville and Industrial Parkway (except through the Briggs Chaney and Randolph Road interchanges, where they would run in mixed traffic), and in mixed traffic between Industrial Parkway and Silver Spring Metro. He proposes to use these funds to buy 14 articulated (60-foot-

long) BRT vehicles, acquire land for and construct 18-foot-high level platforms with off-board fare collection at 11 station locations, to implement 10 bikeshare stations and other pedestrian and bike access improvements to stations, to install transit system signal priority along US 29, and to fund associated planning and design expenses.

- Public hearings on this project were held on February 7 and April 18. Opinion was generally split between supporters and opponents of the specific project scope proposed by the Executive. Most who testified want faster, more frequent, and improved bus service. Many supporters of the Executive's proposal look forward to a future when a dedicated bus lane can be provided between White Oak and Silver Spring. Many of the opponents of the Executive's proposal believe its weakness is the lack of a dedicated bus lane between White Oak and Silver Spring.
- Four Corners resident and CAC member Sean Emerson testified with a proposed means of creating a dedicated BRT lane between New Hampshire Avenue and Sligo Creek Parkway. His proposal relies on reducing the width of the existing general-use lanes to 10 feet, leaving 22 feet in the middle for a dedicated 12-foot-wide bus lane (two lanes at Four Corners) as well as an 8-foot-wide median, and a 2-foot-wide painted strip between the BRT lane and the adjacent travel lane. Where there is a station, the 22 feet would be used for the BRT lane and a one-sided platform. South of Sligo Creek Parkway the BRT would appropriate one of the four peak direction lanes. North of New Hampshire Avenue the lanes would either be in the existing median or, similar to the Executive's proposal, on the outside shoulders, where they exist.
- Committee members and Council staff believe that Mr. Emerson's general concept shows great promise for creating what the master plan calls for: a dedicated lane along most of US 29. Council staff's understanding is that the State Highway Administration is open to the idea that the US 29 lane widths could be reduced to 10 feet. A design with 10-foot-wide lanes would also result in drivers reducing their speeds in this area where residences, businesses, and pedestrians are close to the roadway. Furthermore, the elements of the Executive's proposed BRT project could be incorporated into Mr. Emerson's concept:
 - The \$14 million for BRT vehicles would be used under both the Executive's project and Mr. Emerson's proposal. If the dedicated lane provides a faster round-trip time, then there may be fewer buses needed for the US 29 route, but the extra buses ultimately could be used either to provide even more frequent service on US 29, or on another BRT route.
 - The \$2 million for bike and pedestrian access improvements, the \$1 million for transit signal priority (TSP), and the \$1.5 million for overhead would be needed under either concept.
 - The \$13 million for stations would also be used under either concept. And not just the off US 29 stations: those on the curb of US 29 would be stations for the BRT buses running in mixed traffic in the off-peak direction.